

**YOUNG SINGERS IN HARMONY CONTEST RULES**  
FOR REGIONAL AND NATIONAL CONTESTS  
(As of 29 July 2019)

**1.0 SCOPE**

To ascertain the annual top male, female and mixed secondary school/youth quartets and choruses nationally.

1.1 The national convention will be run at a time and place decided by the National YSIH Committee and be run by a Committee approved by the Coordinators.

1.2 The rules from section 2.0 thereafter apply to all Regional and National contests.

**2.0 ELIGIBILITY**

2.1 All members of the group must be bona fide members of a school's student body during the year of entry, unless they are entering in the 25 & Under category in which case they must be 25 years of age or under.

2.2 Groups may be comprised of members from more than one school.

2.3 No groups shall have been coached within the period of four weeks prior to the competition by any of the judges adjudicating a contest which these groups are competing in.

2.4 A chorus must have a minimum of 9 singers in order to compete. Choruses with fewer than 9 singers may sing for evaluation only.

2.5 In order for competing groups to be eligible to enter the National Contest, Regional committees must schedule their contest to take place no later than the 30<sup>th</sup> June.

**3.0 ENTRY PROCEDURES**

3.1 The committee will issue registration information to regional coordinators to distribute to their regions' competing schools with a closing date set at no less than six weeks prior to the National Contest.

3.2 Before each regional contest the National Committee will inform regional judging panels of the number of qualifiers per category that will be granted automatic entry to the National YSIH Finals.

3.3 Judges of a Regional competition may recommend further qualifiers for the National Contest if they consider their performances are of a sufficiently high standard and these recommendations will be considered by the National Committee.

3.4 YWIH, YMIH and Mixed groups entered from secondary schools will have prioritised entry to Nationals above groups entered in the 25 & Under category.

3.5 All wildcard entries will be awarded at the sole discretion of the National Committee. Various factors will contribute to wild card decisions: scores will be compared across regions and venue capacity considerations will be taken into consideration. The National Committee will not enter in negotiations with school staff or chorus directors regarding wild card invitations.

3.6 Late entries will be at the discretion of the National Committee.

**4.0 CONTEST PROCEDURES**

4.1 Groups shall sing in the order drawn by lot. The Organising Committee should be aware that there may be extenuating circumstances for some groups and reasonable discretion may be exercised.

4.2 For the smooth operation of the contest and to allow judges more time for written comments, the contestants should be programmed to compete by alternating each category where possible (YWIH, YMIH, Mixed).

4.3 Groups should be prepared to sing and be judged on two songs.

4.4 All songs performed shall be arranged in the barbershop style and be sung with no musical accompaniment.

4.5 All members of the group may make only one stage entrance and exit. No person who is not a member of the group shall appear on stage during the presentation of the contest package.

4.6 Scores for all groups will be publicised at the conclusion of the contest.

## **5.0 JUDGING**

5.1 Groups will be judged in the following categories:

Young Women in Harmony: Sound, Music, Expression, Showmanship.

Young Men in Harmony and Mixed: Singing, Music, Performance.

5.2 The contest organisers shall make every endeavour to obtain good quality judges, who will be confirmed at least four weeks prior to contest.

5.3 In the event of a tie, the finishing order shall be decided by the highest score in the Sound (Female), and Singing (Male) category. If the scores are still tied, the finishing order shall then be decided by the highest score in the Music category.

5.4 At the conclusion of the event, the top three male and female quartets shall be announced and given certificates and/or medals. A trophy will be awarded to the Champions.

5.5 A summary of the scoring by all quartets and choruses will be published at the conclusion of the contest, which shall show score per song, per category, any penalties or disqualification and the reason for this.

5.6 All groups will be given their scoresheets at the end of the competition session and they will be allowed to approach judge to ask for specific feedback if they desire.

## **6.0 FINANCE**

6.1 The budget for each National Contest must be submitted to each of the two National YSIH Coordinators at least six weeks prior to the contest. Final approval must be obtained from the National YSIH Committee before proceeding.

6.2 Regional Committees are responsible for the prudent financing of their own contests. Any revenue collected above and beyond that of the financial requirements needed for the facilitation of a Regional Contest (profit) must remain in the Region's bank account to be used for future contests or regional educational events, or be deposited into the National YSIH account.

6.3 Every effort must be made to ensure the National Contest does not run at a financial loss.

6.4 Potential losses must be discussed and approved by the National YSIH Committee.

6.5 Each YSIH National Contest will be underwritten by Barbershop Harmony New Zealand (BHNZ) and the Prue Blythe Memorial Trust. In the first instance, compensation for financial losses from a Regional or National Contest must be applied for to the National YSIH Committee.

6.6 Any profits from the National Finals will be deposited into the National YSIH bank account.